

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add or amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for the preparation of ~~[[Adsorbent]]~~ adsorbent compositions for removing pesticides like chlorpyrifos, malathion and other organo halogen/sulphur pesticides comprising metallic gold/silver nanoparticles having a size which is ~~not more than~~ up to 150 nm deposited on activated alumina and/or magnesia, wherein said metallic gold/silver nanoparticles are prepared by:
(a) diluting silver nitrate or $\text{HAuCl}_4 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ in water;
(b) heating;
(c) adding a sodium citrate solution;
(d) heating; and
(e) loading silver and gold nanoparticles on activated alumina and/or activated magnesia.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently amended) A method ~~Adsorbent compositions as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, wherein said activated alumina and/or magnesia are in the various forms such as globules and powder.
4. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~Adsorbent compositions as claimed in claim 1~~, wherein the metallic silver and gold nanoparticles are used along ~~baked~~ with activated carbon ~~in all compositions~~.
5. (Withdrawn) A device for decontaminating water contaminated with pesticides like chlorpyrifos, malathion or other organo halogen/sulphur pesticides which comprises a housing loaded with gold/silver nanoparticles having a size upto 150 nm supported on activated alumina and/or magnesia, said housing provided with an inlet connectable to water supply source and an outlet for decontaminated water, said outlet being provided with regulatory means.

6. (Withdrawn) A method of decontaminating water by removing pesticides such as chlorpyrifos, malathion or other organo halogen/sulphur pesticides comprising the step of allowing contaminated water to flow through a bed of gold/silver nanoparticles having a size upto 150 nm supported on activated alumina and/or magnesia to adsorb said pesticides and collecting decontaminated water flowing out of said bed.
7. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein in step (d) the heating continues until the solution turns to pale yellow for silver and wine red for gold.
8. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein in step (b) the heating continues until boiling.
9. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the metallic silver and gold nanoparticles are baked with activated carbon at 120⁰C.